



# VOTE



## IAAI 2016 Elections



Candidate for  
Board of Directors:

**Chris Clarke**

(UK)

**How long have you been a member of the IAAI?** 5 years

**How many IAAI annual meetings have you attended?** 6

**Which years?** 2010,2011,2012,2013,2014,2015

**Do you regularly attend your State/Provincial Chapter meetings and activities?** Yes

**List any offices held in your State Chapter.** BOD Training Committee Chair

**Please list any International offices held, special projects or Committee work, indicating years of service** BOD Website Committee Chair, Career Path Committee

**If you are elected, will you take an active role in the IAAI, and with your present position, attend all annual meetings and board meetings during your term of office?** Yes

**Describe, in 100 words or less, why you feel you are qualified for this position.** I have worked in the fire industry for more than 30 years and specialized in fire investigation for the last 15 years. Having gained a wealth of knowledge, experience and coming to the autumn of my career, I feel the time is right to give something back. I am totally committed to the development of fire investigation, remaining on the board will give me the opportunity to continue to bridge the gap between US and the developing worldwide fraternity. I have held management positions, sat on and chaired various committees, I am not afraid of hard work and getting involved.

**Why do you want to become a Director or Officer of the IAAI?** Having worked in the fire community for more than 30 years I have reaped the rewards that the industry has to offer and a day has not gone by where I have not learnt something. I have taken a considerable amount from that industry and I feel it is now time and my duty to give something back to the industry that has kept me and my family over those years. Those people who will follow in my footsteps are the future of our industry and without dedicated officials in organizations like the IAAI passing on knowledge and experience, their knowledge base will take longer to build. Furthermore, as the only offshore representative presently on the board I am convinced that the rest of the world wants to see international representation.

**What do you believe are your best leadership traits and how would you use them as a Director or Officer of the IAAI?** As a manager I promote positive working relationships, internally and externally; understand organizational constraints and promote inter-departmental co-operation. I have a genuine interest in staff/colleagues as individuals; value their contributions; develop their strengths; coach/mentor and have positive expectations of what people can achieve. I believe people need to feel rewarded by their achievements not necessarily rewarded for their achievements. As the Chairman of my local sports club I was described by the President as, 'a leader that people would follow, but more importantly taking them in the right direction'. Having managed a private fire investigation company for the last four years meeting deadlines is critical and something I have achieved. I have a proven track record as a member of the IAAI international board and have brought these skills to the board room.

**What steps do you believe should be taken to grow membership?** Over a number of years I have presented fire investigation and forensic technique classes to many differing organizations, not least Universities. As the

fire & rescue services, especially in Europe, are reducing their financial commitment to fire investigation, these students are the future of fire and arson investigation. The IAAI needs to encourage universities on two fronts, firstly the establishment of academic corporate membership for the institutions and more importantly a student membership for the individuals. The rates need to be reduced to encourage membership, in some ways using it as a loss leader in the way that many European banks do. Once the student is signed up and getting the benefits they are reluctant to leave when they enter the world of employment. Member only benefits are key to attracting new members; the hope is that the member only resource area of the firearson.com site will grow over the short to medium term. This will become a one-stop shop for fire investigators all over the world to share and tap into resources such as documents and presentations submitted by their peers across the world. Enhanced chapters are proving to be a great way to bring individual chapter members into the international fold.

**How would you propose to improve relationships and communications between the International and Chapters?** The board needs to embrace all opportunities to visit overseas chapters, either as a group or by individual representation, that way the International will improve relationships with the chapters. We as a board have again agreed to hold our mid year meeting in London, which will attract chapter members from all over the rest of Europe to attend the UK Chapter ATC. The board is now committed to sending representatives to chapter meetings and events, mainly at their own cost. I personally have attended events in the USA and have been welcomed with open arms. Open dialog and communication is key, encouraging more chapter presidents to be on the conference calls would open up lines of communication. I would work on a short chapter report annually from each chapter to let others see what we are all doing in terms of training and chapter development. That report can then be published in the chapter section of the firearson.com website. There is also an outstanding opportunity to bring together the English and Spanish speaking investigators of the world by the work Ric Torres and others have been doing. Furthermore, as an international organization we need more international board members.

**What are your recommendations for future funding of CFITrainer.Net?** I see this being approached on two fronts, website sponsorship and recharges to individuals. The website sponsorship may be the least controversial in terms of the members and has proved to be extremely successful for other online portals. The second option would be to carry on allowing members to use the service free of charge and charge non-members to take the test and therefore receive the certification. In line with the answer to 3 above a reduced rate could be levied for students. There are over 30,000 active registrants on CFITrainer.Net with over half a million credit hours logged, and approximately 6,800 active members of IAAI International. If we charged the 23,000 non-members \$5 for each certification that would be \$115,000. We would have to accept a drop out rate, say as much as 50%, that is still \$57,500 per certified program.

**Other than training fire investigators, what two or three other elements do you consider as critical to the mission of the IAAI?** The main mission is about improving the professional development of investigators using technology and research. The website is the perfect technology platform to promote research and give members access to the results of research and developments in the fire investigation world. A technical on line library for 'members only' encourages members to visit the site and renew their membership. This can be achieved by direct links to established forensic libraries, in a similar manner to that used by educational establishments. A portal for product recalls, as on the IAAI UK site and the features in the newsletter, drive all that through the member login area and that will help to answer questions 3 and 4.